

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
September 16, 2016 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Center**

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>King County Staff</u>	<u>Others</u>
April Atwood	Dale Alekel	Karen Dawson, Cedar Grove, SWAC applicant
David Baker	Gemma Alexander	Mason Giem, Agriculture, SWAC applicant
Jerry Bartlett	Alejandra Calderon	Brent Kinkade, HDR
Gib Dammann	Jennifer Devlin	Ross Marzolf, King County Council Staff
Jean Garber	Jeff Gaisford	Yolanda Pon, Public Health KC- Seattle
Kevin Kelly	Matt Hobson	Terra Rose, King County Councilmember Staff
Stephen Strader	Beth Humphreys	Ian Sutton, Parametrix
Bill Ziegler	Laila McClinton	Olivia Williams, HDR
Elly Bunzendahl- excused	Pat McLaughlin	
Suzette Dickerson- excused	Donna Miscolta	
Kim Kaminski - excused	Meg Moorehead	
Keith Livingston- excused	Olivia Robinson	
Jose Lugo - excused	Diane Yates	
Barbara Ristau- excused		
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann- excused		
Largo Wales- excused		

Approve Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda

The Advisory Committee did not achieve a quorum, therefore minutes from the June meeting were not amended or approved and a vote on committee officers did not take place.

[Chair Garber](#) and [Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann](#) each submitted a letter to the committee.

Updates

SOLID WASTE DIVISION (SWD)

SWD takes new approach to noxious weed removal

SWD Director Pat McLaughlin announced a new approach SWD is taking to remove Tansy Ragwort, a Class B noxious weed, from closed landfills. Traditionally, Tansy has been controlled by spray application of pesticides recommended by the King County Noxious Weed Board, but SWD wanted to see if it could remove the weeds without the use of chemicals. Manual removal

of the weed has resulted in more than 1,200 pounds of Tansy collected at the Duvall and Puyallup-Kit Corner closed landfills. SWD will compare the two methods at the end of the growing season this fall.

Four SWD facilities receive “Gold” from King County Industrial Waste Program

In May, the King County Industrial Waste Program gave four SWD recycling and transfer stations – Bow Lake, Algona, Renton, and Vashon – the Gold Award for having no wastewater discharge violations in 2015.

SWD recognizes 70 schools for conserving resources

In June, SWD’s Green Schools program honored 70 schools from around King County for their effort to conserve resources. The program currently has 236 schools participating, and the 70 schools honored this year were recognized for completing Green Schools actions and education. The story was picked up by the [Maple Valley Reporter](#).

SWD conducts recycling survey

From Aug. 18-28, SWD conducted the first half of a recycling survey at seven SWD recycling and transfer stations. The survey primarily focused on customer recycling habits and also included questions about customer satisfaction. Survey results will inform how SWD can improve recycling services and options at our facilities. The second half of the survey will occur in October and November. Survey results will be available early next year.

Smoldering trailer at Factoria quickly extinguished

At about 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 9, SWD staff noticed a smoldering trailer at the Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station. Staff alerted the Bellevue Fire Department, which arrived on the scene at 2:40 p.m. and quickly extinguished the smoldering refuse. After receiving the all-clear from the fire department, the trailer was transported to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill where the trailer’s contents were disposed of without any incident.

Retirements

After 18 years with King County, 16 of which have been with SWD, Diane Yates will be retiring at the end of February 2017.

MSWMAC

McLaughlin gave the MSWMAC update. He acknowledged that the rate proposal that the Executive transmitted to Council for approval included \$2 million to fund a Demand Management Pilot Project at only the Shoreline, Factoria and Houghton transfer stations, which is a different plan than what was recommended by MSWMAC members. MSWMAC had recommended that the division test demand management strategies across all urban stations to maintain equitable levels of service and a full picture of likely demands on the system. They also recommended that the division close the Houghton Transfer Station during the pilot. McLaughlin stated that the intent of the pilot is to determine if extended hours and peak

pricing strategies are enough to redistribute customers in order to efficiently manage an expected increase in transactions (due to population forecasts, not an increase in tonnage) in NE King County without having to build a new transfer station. Implementing the pilot across all urban stations in the region would not affect changes in customer behavior, nor provide the best data for NE King County. McLaughlin reiterated that no decision has been made about closing Houghton during the pilot and that there is still much to discuss. Input still is needed from the Advisory Committees, especially in regards to what other measures ought to be captured during the study.

McLaughlin explained that the last rate increase was approved by Council in 2012. Another increase was planned for 2015, but the division decided to hold off on requesting an increase until now when inflation, deferred maintenance, and equipment purchases make an increase necessary. This rate increase is expected to add a 5 percent increase to a typical single-family curbside customer, which is estimated at about \$0.94 more per month.

Chair Jean Garber stated that three members are leaving SWAC after this meeting due to expiring terms. Jerry Bartlett, Phillip Schmidt-Pathmann, and Bill Ziegler were recognized for their service with expressions of gratitude and well wishes. Michael Grayum's recent departure from Republic Services means he will no longer be a member of SWAC and it is likely that former member representing Republic Services, Joe Casalini, may return to fill the vacated position.

In response to a question about the progress made toward "secure medicine," Jeff Gaisford of SWD's Recycling and Environmental Services section reported that after months of working with local pharmacies, drop boxes are presently being shipped to King County and will be installed and fully operational in January 2017.

Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Comp Plan) Presentation

SWD staff Matt Hobson gave a [presentation](#) on the Comp Plan.

Stephen Strader asked how SWD defines "Zero Waste of Resources" and how does "Waste to Energy" fit into that. Gaisford answered that "Zero Waste of Resources" is to ensure that anything of value is not disposed. State law and the current Comp Plan do not look at "Waste to Energy" as a recycling effort.

Gib Dammann expressed concern that, with multi-family homes recycling at just 8 percent, that SWD is not likely to achieve its goal of 70 percent landfill diversion. Gaisford responded that recent studies and pilot programs are helping some multi-family units achieve tremendous success towards recycling efforts. A report with these findings will be presented to the King County Council soon.

Strader asked about whether the new Comp Plan would include a NE transfer station. McLaughlin responded that the Comp Plan will include a capital plan with an option for a NE transfer station, but no definitive direction about a new transfer station as SWD needs more information before deciding whether to build a new station.

Garber mentioned that SWAC passed a motion that building a new NE transfer station and conducting Demand Management strategies ought to be looked at together in the next Comp Plan.

School Programs Presentation

SWD staff Donna Miscolta and Dale Alekel gave a [presentation](#) on the division's school programs.

Q&A followed the presentation. Jerry Bartlett asked for more information about the garden and composting systems set up by schools with the assistance of the division. Miscolta clarified that the division provides mini-grants for schools to purchase composting equipment to compost garden waste, not food from the lunch room. Several expressed appreciation and gratitude to Miscolta and Alekel for their efforts as their work truly makes a difference in the lives of students.

Giem asked why all schools in King County do not participate in the Green Schools Programs. Alekel explained that of the 497 K-12 schools in King County, 237 (47 percent) are participating in the Green Schools Program and that more sign up every year thanks to marketing efforts and word of mouth. Schools that do not participate have their reasons, namely schools are often stretched pretty thin as it is, and there are some principals who are focused on reaching their curriculum goals and resist programs that are not central to their primary mission. But on that note, Alekel mentioned that she has created a new tool for schools to use that demonstrates alignment between the Green Schools Program Best Practices Guides and both the New Generation Science Standards and the Common Core curriculum so hopefully that will help get more schools on board.

Strader asked how the program calculates recycling rates for schools. Alekel explained that when program representatives visit schools, they obtain data such as the number and size of outdoor garbage and recycling dumpsters, and that they ask custodians to provide the number of times each week that outdoor dumpsters are emptied and how full each dumpster is when emptied. That data is entered into a database and a recycling rate worksheet to calculate monthly volumes and recycling rate. Alekel noted that the program cannot obtain recycling rate data for every participating school, including schools that share their campus with church groups.

Open Forum

No comments were made during the open forum.